



National Trails Day® 2012

VALLEY FORGE, PA – Valley Forge National Historical Park (NHP) hosted its ninth Trails Fair in celebration of American Hiking Society's 20th annual National Trails Day® on Saturday, June 2, 2012. This annual event brought together dedicated volunteers, outdoor enthusiasts, trail lovers and those new to the outdoors to learn about and celebrate the many benefits of trails. National Trails Day® is a long-standing celebration of America's magnificent trail systems nation-wide and its countless supporters and volunteers. This event is celebrated in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The slogan for National Trails Day® 2012, *America's Largest TRAILgating Party*, which was an open invitation to all Americans to get outside and connect with their local hiking clubs, community groups, and state and national parks.



The event at Valley Forge NHP began when Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau President, Paul Decker, presented a check in the amount of \$20,000 to Park Superintendent, Kate Hammond. The money was raised by the Bureau's sponsorship of the 7th Annual Valley Forge 5-mile Revolutionary Run event this past April. The funds will be used to upgrade the Park's trail system and to support education programs.

and for sharing online. Program participants examine the details of the contemporary landscape as well as details of landscape artwork in order to share the big story of Valley Forge as it is today.

Also this year the Girls Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania joined the park with special activities and exhibits in celebration of their 100th Anniversary. This partnership with the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania gave the opportunity to audiences of youth and their family members to be exposed to the National Park Service and the regional trails systems for the first time.

Over 200 volunteers helped with trail maintenance projects that included the removal of invasive plants and vines and litter clean-up.



Valley Forge worked in partnership with local and national environmental and conservation, health, and trails organizations to offer fun and educational clinics, presentations of outdoor exhibits, and the latest in environmentally friendly outdoor equipment and gear. Other activities included guided hikes focusing on the nature environment, wildlife and history. The park also launched its new pilot program, *Changing Landscapes*. This new program for youth and adults allows participants to create art, write descriptive captions and poetry for exhibit at the park





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Special thanks to our partners and conservation, environmental, and health care organizations. Together we worked hand in hand and have demonstrated that we are all an integral part of educating the general public about the many positive benefits of trails and how people can get involved in helping to preserve and enjoy them!

Participating Organizations:

American Hiking Society
Eastern Mountain Sports
The North Face
National Park Conservation Association
Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania
Appalachian Mountain Club
Philadelphia Bicycle Coalition
Horse-shoe Trails Conservancy
Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area
Audubon YMCA
Bryn Mawr Hospital
John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove
Friends of Valley Forge Park
Elmwood Park Zoo
Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers
Delaware Valley Orienteering Association
Philadelphia Bicycle Coalition
Montgomery County Equine Council
Chester County SPCA
Franklin Institute
Southeast Pennsylvania Search and Rescue
Saint Gabriel's Hall School for Boys
The Disney Store in King of Prussia
Individuals and families for the surrounding area